SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, this is a very important question...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to discuss some other thing also. The other question is also concerning power. Let the question be answered, then I will call you.

States Facing Power Deficit

*184. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) which are the five States which stand ahead in power deficit;

(b) whether power supply to some States from the Central Pool was increased recently;

(c) whether Karnataka is one of the States thus benefited; and

(d) whether any reduction in the power supply to Kerala was made from the Central Pool, and if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI); (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The five States with highest energy shortage during the period April, 1996 to January, 1997 are as under:

States	Energy Shortage (%)
1. Arunachal Pradesh	48.6
2. Bihar	27.6
3. Karnataka	26.1
4. Tripura	23.3
5. Kerala	23.2

(b) to (d) The allocation of power from the Central share (15 per cent of installed capacity of Central generating stations) is made to the constituent States and reviewed from time to time depending on the prevailing power supply position. The details of the allocation made are as under:

State	Percentage share		
	with effect from 1.10.1996	with effect from 1.1.197	with effect from 10.2.1997
1. Andhra Pradesh	30	25	30
2. Karnataka	30	40	40
3. Kerala	30	25	27
4. Tamil Nadu	10	10	3

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir, from the answer it is clear that Kerala is among the five States with the highest energy shortage. At present, Kerala is faced with very serious power cuts. This is the first time in the history of Kerala that we are facing power cuts during the rainy season. Examinations are coming near. The SSLC examinations would be starting very soon. College examinations will come after that. Eighty-five thousand to one lakh students would be appearing for University examinations. It has been said that there would be no power cuts during examination time. Power cuts have led to very serious incidents there. It has resulted in students organisations calling for an agitation. As a result of that more than three MLAs were arrested. Police have trespassed into more than three party offices. *Bundhs* have been declared in various districts. In Kottayam and Palghat, many unfortunate incidents have taken place. As a result of

all this, the State Government has declared that they would not resort to power cuts during examination time. But they have done this at the cost of some others. Now the shop-powers are going to be affected. There will be no power for shops after 7 PM. Life will come to a standstill in Kerala. I would like to know whether there is any demand from the State Government of Kerala for additional power to tide over the present situation. If there is such a request from the State, is the Government considering it?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: I think the Member is very anxious because of children's examinations. Kerala depends on hydro power. There is no thermal power available in the State. That is why the problem is acute in Kerala as compared to other States. Recently we increased the Central allocation to 27 per cent. We will consider enhancing the quota.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Has there been any request from the State Government?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The State Government has made such a request. However, the allocation of power will have to be made out of the 15 per cent of installed capacity. We have to give power to other States also.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Has the State Government made any request for additional power to tide over the present situation?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: A request has been made. On the request of the hon. Member, we will consider increasing the allocation of power.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Sir, in the answer, five States were mentioned where power was being allocated from the Central Pool. We find that Karnataka and Kerala are faced with the highest energy shortage. It is seen that on 1.10.1996, power from the Central Pool to Karnataka was 30 per cent. Then it was raised to 40 per cent and even now it is 40 per cent. In the case of Kerala on 1.10.1996, it was 30 per cent, then it was reduced to 25 per cent and then it was again raised to 27 per cent. It has not come to the original 30 per cent, whereas in Karnataka, it was raised from 30 to 40 per cent. Why is there this dicrimination? Why was the power supply from the Central Pool not raised in Kerala? The second part of my supplementary is, is there any proposal for hydel projects or other projects pending before the Centre for clearance? Why is there a delay? Will an early clearance be given for that?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, as I have mentioned earlier there is no discrimination against any State nor any favouritism shown to any State, because as per the guiding formula we can allocate power from the Central Pool and the hon. Member rightly spoke about 1.10.96 allocation. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Member about energy shortages. Before allocating to any State we have to take into consideration the energy shortage in various parts of the country; like, for example, the southern regions where in Kerala energy shortage is 20.2 per cent, in Karnataka, energy shortage is 25.6 per cent. I think based on this energy shortage only, we will allocate. There is no question of favouritism to any State. The hon. member mentioned about Kayamkulam power project in Kerala. No hydel power project in Kerala is pending at the Centre. The member probably wants to emphasize Poyamkutti which is pending with the Environment Ministry and not in the Power Ministry.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: The discrimination is self-explanatory from the answer itself.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, power is a very critical input for the development of economy. It is very

unfortunate that the target fixed for additional generation capacity during Eighth Plan period was 33,000 megawatts while we have been able to achieve only 1000 megawatts. Regarding transmission problem, Cogentrix has been completed but it cannot generate electricity because there are no transmission lines. A very fundamental question has been raised by Shri Dipankar Mukherjee to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House and it is contained on page 165 of the Economic Survey. May I know from the hon. Minister by what time you will be able to finalise the National Energy Policy whereby the State Electricity Regulatory Commission will be set up of fix tariffs. In this policy decision you have fixed that the minimum, for the agricultural sector also will not be less than 50% of the total cost and also you have said that the National Policy of Hydro Power Development will also be resolved by the Central Government. So, as announced in the Economic Survey on page 165, by whom will this new National Energy Policy along with tariff fixation be brought and at what level? Will you bring this policy before the House for discussion before finalising it and implementing it? I want a categorical answer from you.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the National Energy Policy not only pertains to power but coal and development of coal. Sufficient infrastructure should be made in the coal sector as well as railways. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission is looking after that. Personally the hon. Prime Minister has given directions to the Planning Commission to speed up the implementation. Recently I have also written a letter to hon. Shri Madhu Dandavateji. I think within one year they may complete the Energy policy. After completing the policy, definitely we will forward the Committee reports to the hon. House. About NHPC and fixation of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, already we have finalised it in the Common Minimum National Action Plan. We drafted the Plan and the States have also agreed to set up. Further, we require some legal framework and we are getting this Bill in this Session.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Policy be finalised by the Planning Commission or by the Central Government?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: As far as power is concerned, we have taken a lot of initiatives. We have finalised it in our Ministry. But National Energy Policy will be incorporated with the Secretaries of different Ministries, like Secretary, Power; Secretary, Coal; Secretary, Railways. After consulting all these Secretaries, the National Energy Policy will be finalised by the Planning Commission.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, the requirements and the inadequacies, and the needs and the aspirations of the people of Assam and the North-East are quite well known. I want to make one point. Some 8-9 years ago, a power project was proposed at Anguri in Assam and the foundation-laying and other formalities were already completed. So far, nothing whatsoever was done. May I know from the Minister whether any progress has been made? Is there any prospect of this project getting materialised? If this is completed, it will go a long way in meeting some of the power deficiency in the area.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, regarding the Anguri project, we have recently received a letter from the Ministry of Petroleum which stated that sufficient gas was not available. I am giving this answer after studying the whole thing. After availability of gas, we will take up the Anguri project. Apart from that, this Government is giving more funds for the development of the north-eastern States. This package includes some projects also.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, I would like to ask a specific question and I expect from the Minister a specific answer. What is the total quantum of Central quota to the Southern region and on what criteria this quota has been fixed? What is the total quantum of power given to the State of Andhra Pradesh?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, I give only specific answers. I would not give vague answers. I have always been giving specific answers. As regards allocation from the Central quota, we make these allocations based on the Gagdil formula and energy consumption. While doing this, we take into consideration factors such as the peak and normal level energy situation, energy shortages, etc. So, we do the allocation on this basis from the Central quota. There is no fixed criteria that one State has to be given 40% and some other State 30%. It depends on the States' priorities and such aspects as drought conditions or flood conditions, etc. Depending on all these aspects, the allocation varies. Recently, basing on the industrial load and energy consumption, we increased it in Karnataka. Based on the representation from the Government of Kerala and the demand by the hon. Member who has just spoken, we propose to enhance the quota for Kerala also. The 15% Central allocation is primarily based on the Gadgil formula. The latest revision of allocation was made and with effect from 10.2.1997, Andhra Pradesh would get 30%, Karnataka would get 40%, Kerala would get 27% and Tamil Nadu would get 3%. I think this is effective from 10.2.1997. From time to time, we review the position. Recently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposals for enhancement of the energy quota. I think we have to examine these proposals taking into account the total energy requirements of the entire southern region.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Sir, the hon. Minister has listed some names of the States where there are power shortages in reply to the first part of the main Question. This was estimated during the period between April, 96 and January, 97. In this list, Bihar was put in the second position with an energy shortage of 27.6%. But in the allocations made to be effective from 1.1.97, I don't find Bihar's name in it. I am rather surprised by this omission. I would like to mention the fact that Bihar produce 40% of the total coal production in this country. Also, when the DVC was being constructed, Bihar had lost a large tract of its land. And from this project, we are not getting enough energy. We produce a large part of the total coal production and distribute it to other States. Then, why is it that Bihar is deprived of sufficient power? Why is it that Bihar is not being given sufficient power from the Central quota?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the question pertains to southern region.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: No, Sir. I beg to differ with his contention. The first part of his answer lists Bihar.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, as far as Bihar is concerned, their total requirement is 3,085.9 MW. Bihar is actually getting more than its entitlement. It is getting 4,545.9 MW. This is for information of the hon. Member. This Government has not been neglecting Bihar or any other State. It is decided on the basis of their requirements. We also monitor it from time to time and examine each case. So, we are not neglecting any State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 185.

Hinduja's Power Plant at Vizag

*185. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the Hinduja's Power Plant at Vizag;